

Milfoil: An Invasive Exotic

AVOID introducing
Eurasian Water Milfoil
into other lakes:

- ♦ Check your boat, anchor, and trailer for plant material before leaving the boat access area
- ♦ Drain bilge water before leaving the boat access area
- ♦ Empty bait buckets on land – do not dump live fish into any body of water
- ♦ Use hot water to wash down your boat, trailer and tackle. This will destroy any tag-along pieces that could be carried into other water bodies



Eurasian Water Milfoil is an aquatic plant that came to North America from Europe and

Asia in the 1940s. Originally imported as an aquarium plant, its soft, feathery leaves hang from stalks in deeper water, with flowers and seeds above the surface.

Milfoil quickly chokes out native plants, covering the water surface and blocking light from entering the lake. Milfoil affects people, too. Swimming, paddling, or motoring through weeds is difficult. Fish have the same problem – with less open water and less of their native food to eat, they struggle to survive.



Even a tiny piece of broken stem in the water can start a new plant, so milfoil is difficult to get rid of once it's in the water.



The piece on the left is a harmless, native species of milfoil, while the piece on the right is Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Across the United States today, milfoil lives in all water from large lakes to slow-moving streams. This plant can survive in a variety of temperatures and conditions. It reproduces quickly, clogging lakes and streams.